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THE

PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER
****
VOLUME 3   **   NUMBER 11
******
NOVEMBER 1985

EDITED BY: ROD GOWEN
CHAIRMAN: DICK WAGNER
V/CHAIRMAN/SEC: VINCE LYON
TREASYRER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: LAURA GOWEN
****

MEETING

The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 1985
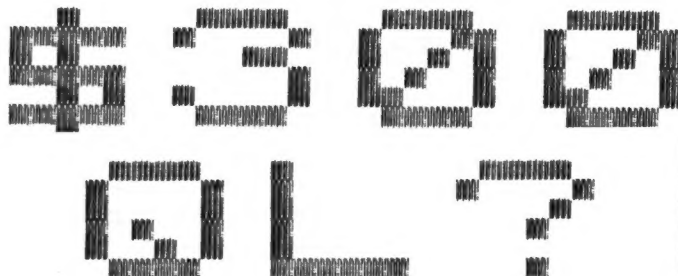at: 7:30 P. M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
    FAR WEST FEDERAL S&L
    OREGON CITY SHOPPING CTR

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE-

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COMPUTING THE FUTURE
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

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$300 QL?
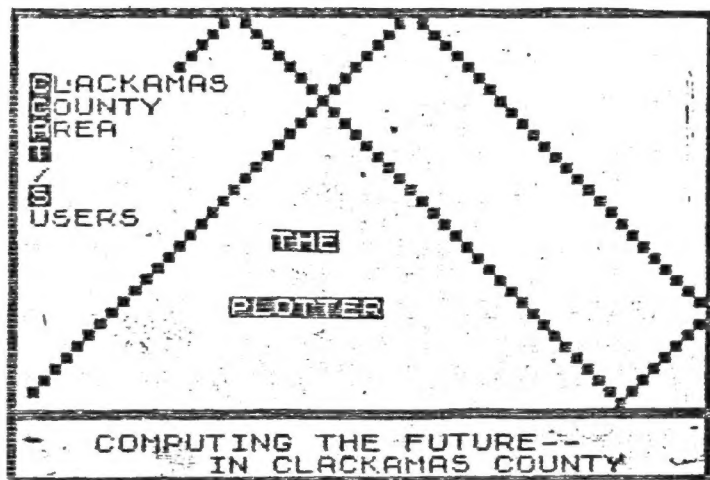
SINCLAIR RESEARCH HAS JUST AN-
NOUNCED THAT, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER
1, 1985, THEY WILL LET ALL DEAL-
ERS IN THE US SELL THE QL AND
ALL OF THE RELATED PRODUCTS.

YOUR LOCAL DEALER WILL BE:

RMG ENTERPRISES

(SEE AD IN THIS NEWSLETTER.)
THIS NEWS CAME AS A SUPRISE TO
MOST OF THE DEALERS THAT WE
SPOKE TO AROUND THE COUNTRY THIS
WEEK. MARY REINMAN OF SINCLAIR,
ALSO SAID THAT SINCLAIR WOULD
CONTINUE TO SELL THE QL BY MAIL,
BUT THAT THEY WOULD NOT SELL THE
POCKET FLATSCREEN TV. THAT ITEM
WILL BE AVAILIBLE THROUGH ALL OF
THE DEALERS THAT WISH TO SELL IT
ALONG WITH THE QL AND SOFTWARE.

THIS NEWS COMES ON THE HEELS OF
THE NEWS THAT SINCLAIR IS GOING
TO BE RELEASING THE NEW 128K
SPECTRUM SOMETIME IN JANUARY OF
NEXT YEAR.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THIS WILL
BE A MOVE THAT WILL HELP ALL OF
US AS WELL AS SINCLAIR.

SECRETAR'S SECRETS

The OCTOBER meeting was held on OCTOBER 5, 1985, at the above location. Our Chairman, DICK WAGNER, called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. As this column serves as our Secretaries Report, the next order of business was the Treasurers' report. One of the questions brought up was in reference to the cost of putting out our monthly newsletter. Editor Rod Gowen told the group that the cost per newsletter for printing and mailing an 8 page issue was 58 cents.

After the preliminaries, the Chairman asked if the people in attendance would stand and introduce themselves. We signed up one new member at the meeting, and had 4 new people there to see what we were all about.

New business—What to do about poor attendance? We discussed this problem and finally decided that we would definitely have more young people in our midst if the meeting night were again to be Friday night. It was moved and seconded and passed by vote, that we try the second Friday for the next three months. The question will be on the ballot with the December PLOTTER. REMEMBER! ALL BALLOTS MUST BE IN AND COUNTED BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH!!

Business meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

There were a lot of new things to see after the meeting. TIM WOODS had the Zebra DD System from Portugal. ROD GOWEN had the Amdek Amdisk III 3" DD to see as well as a new EPROM for the Gorilla Banana printer to change the character set.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Another year almost gone, and I hope that it has been a good one for most of you. I think that from the Editors' point of view, the job of putting together this newsletter has become a small bit easier. Not so much because of my getting more help with the job, but because I have had better equipment and tools with which to do the job. After having done the job for almost 3 years now, I am as I may have mentioned before, going to back off and let someone else take on the responsibilities that go with this job.

I do want to thank all of those who, over the past 3 years, have helped out in any way with THE PLOTTER. You will not be able to get rid of my writing though, as I intend to do a lot more of it in the future, here as well as in other publications.

I do hope that the general improvements made in style and format to THE PLOTTER over the past year or so have not gone unnoticed. It is really hard to judge how one is doing without the input of others. We would really like to print LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, the only problem is, we don't get any letters to print! Hey! All you readers out there! How about dropping a quick line to the EDITOR?

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA TIMEX SINCLAIR USER'S GROUP
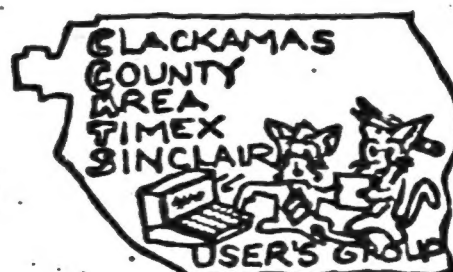
COMMENTS ON COMPUSERVE
Rod Gowen
CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE. The definition is for those of you not familiar with the service.

I am, in this column, going to let all of you know what the T/S world is doing outside of our own local area is all about. I hope that it will help you in some small way.

Here we go again! I do hope that you have been enjoying our little forays into the world of CIS. I only wish that I could afford to spend as much time on the service as I would like to. But, at $6.50/hour, I must limit my time.

I will admit, a lot of the banter on the T/S FORUM is repetative. But, every so often, a new and really interesting subject is brought up. Just this week, for instance, Barry Carter, author of the MTERM II MANUAL, finally found the code to allow uploads and downloads working programs to the forum data library! Now everyone wants the code to be able to transmit the same kind of things to other TS users.

There is, of course, still a lot of talk about DD systems. There was even a new one discussed, the LARKEN DD from Canada. It selld for $89.95 US. It will only support 1 drive and will only format for 80K per side. More on the LARKEN was in #15 TS HORIZONS.

I will say that if all you want to do is look into the TIMEX FORUM, I think that the service would, to me at least, not be worth the $6/hr online time charge plus the $.50/hr surcharge. If however, you make use of a few of the several hundred other services availible, then I believe the cost to be worth every cent of the cost.

As there are so many services offered on CIS, I am, with this issue, and future issues, going to list a very small portion of the CIS INDEX each month. We now bring you the second installment:

```
Popular Science.........Go PSC
Autos, buying:
 StL Post-Dispatch..Go SPD-1002
Aviation:
 ASI Monitor.........Go ASI-10
 EMI Flight Planning.....Go EMI
 NWS Aviation Weather....Go AWX
 Official Airline Guide..Go OAG
 Peak Delay Guide.......Go PDG
Aviation Safety Inst:....Go ASI
Aviation (SIG):........Go SFP-6
Baseball (AP wire):...Go APN-16
Basic CompuServe:.....Go PCS-73
Beef prices:..........Go CNS-12
Belmont Golf Association:Go BEL
Belmont's golf (SIG):Go HOM-129
Better Homes & Gardens:..Go BHG
Billing, general:......Go CIS-4
Billing, reviewing:..Go CIS-176
Biorhythms:..........Go GAM-29
Blackjack game:.......Go GAM-13
Bliss language:.......Go PCS-74
Book, ordering:
 Fifth Avenue Shopper....Go FTH
 Howard Sams' Books......Go SAM
 World Book Encyclopedia.Go WBE
Boston, Shawmut Bank:....Go SHW
Bridge game:..........Go GAM-18
Broadcasting:...........Go NPR
Brokerage:..............Go UMC
Budgeting, home:
 Gov't
 CompuServe...........Go HOM-80
Bulletin board:.......Go HOM-23
Business, farming:....Go SFP-10
Business Information Wire:G BIW
Business news:
 AP Viewdata Wire........Go APV
 Business wire..........Go TBW
 Canadian, U.S., Int'l...Go BIW
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More on CIS next time.

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BITS & BYTES

Here we go, more news on the TS scene-----

ENGLISH MICRO CONNECTION-has a new 30+ page catalog out. It is 8 1/2 x 11 inch and includes a lot of new products. Bob Dyl says that due to problems with delivery and availibility, he will no longer be carrying the Portuguese Timex disk drive system. He is now selling and highly recommending the Kempston DD system.

TS HORIZONS-#15 has finally arrived! The Editor sends his sincerest apologies to all, and thanks all for being patient with them. I personally think that #15 was well worth waiting for. I think that you will too.

RESEARCH SERVICE LABS-has still not responded to an inquiry by Dennis Jurries as to whether they would loan him a Disk Drive I/F for him to review. He would run the reviews in this newsletter and possibly, in TIME DESIGNS magazine. I would think that it would be good PR, not to mention the free advertising.

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-is celebrating it's first anniversary with the current issue. We have been impressed with the improvments made over the past 6 issues and we hope to see them continue to improve and grow. CONGRATULATIONS TIM!

SINCLAIR RESEARCH-has finally confirmed, through Nigel Searle, that they are going to set up dealerships for, or at least sell to dealers, the QL. Executive Workshop and RMG Enterprises have received a letter offering the QL for $300 retail. RMG is going to be your local dealer as soon as the machines can be brought in.

RAMEX INTERNATIONAL-now has a
less expensive DD system for
sale. It uses the same board
with a new DOS by Kemston. They
wrote the DOS for the Millenia-K
nd for the Spectrum and QL DD
systems in England. The new sys-
tem also uses the Amdek Amdisk
III dual DD. It sells for $300.
RMG does NOT handle it but Rod
can give you more info.

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-from Canada
is offering a DD system for the
2068. Seems like once they
started showing up, there is no
stopping the DD revolution! This
one is pretty basic, and as re-
ported in the Comments On Comp-
userve column, it is going for
$90 US. It does, however, only
support One drive. Otherwise all
reports say that it is very well
made.

I know that there is a lot more
news out there, but this is all
that we have room for this
month! I've waited a long time
to say that! Til next time....

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LOAD/SAVE
METER
by: M. J. RAYMOND

Finding some time on my hands
this summer, I decided to do
something about the load pro-
blems on my T/S 1000.

Looking through the Radio Shack
semiconductor guide, I found a
circuit for an easy VU Meter.
With only a few changes and an
hour or two with a soldering
iron, this could be a useful
addition to your computer.
Construction of the circuit is
easy and straightforward. I
changed the resistors to var-
iable ones to provide for easy
adjustment. The circuit in the
book is for 0 volts to 10 volts
which is a little high for our
needs. The power leads connect
directly to the 9 volt input to
the computer. The signal input
is soldered to the tape inputs
and that is all there is to it!

After connecting up the leads,
it will help to do a little ex-
perimenting. First adjust R1 so
that the loudest volume lights
the last light on the bar graph.
This can be done without using
the LOAD on the computer, but it
has to be turned on. R2 controls
the brightness of the display.
Set this where you like. Now,
close up the case. Try LOADing
a program several times to find
the max. and min. volume that
the computer will LOAD at. Mark
these limits on the bar graph
and as long as you maintain the
volume between the marks you
should have a good LOAD.

I have found this circuit not
only useful in LOADing but it
also helped to align the heads
on my two recorders.
PARTS LIST:

1-RS276-150	Circuit brd	$	.79
1-RS276-1991	20Pin Socket		.59
1-RS276-1992	18Pin Socket		.49
1-RS276-081	10 Section LED Bar Graph		3.00
1-RS276-1709	LM3916N IC		2.99
1------------	5K Variable Resistor		.59
1------------	10K Variable Resistor		.59
10 in.-------	Light Wire from Work Bench		
2 in.-------	Solder from Work Bench		

================================
TOTAL $10.00

(All parts listed are available
from your local Radio Shack.)

RI 5K POT
R2 10K POT

YOUR WISH
IS my command!
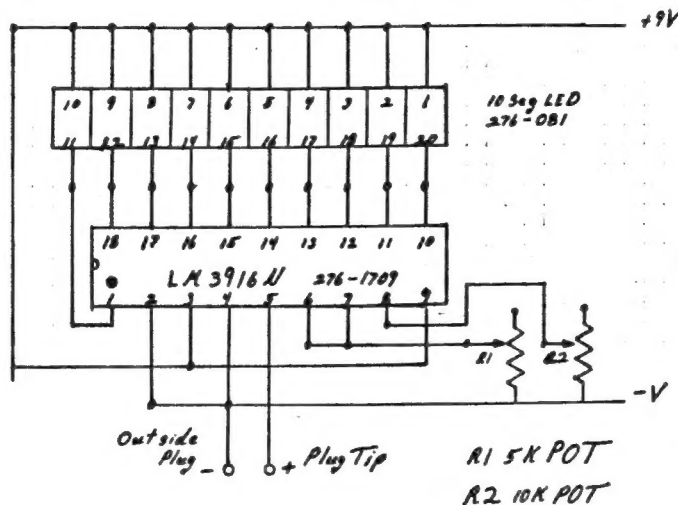
THE MONSTER

It sits there, like a grin-
ning idiot savant, awaiting his
master's order. A direction, any
direction, will do. A command,
a directive, on an impulse, on a
whim. A stroke of the key. It
awaits, patiently, it's master's
desire.

And I wonder, as I sit here,
lord and master, waiting for a
thought, a need, a sudden flash
of insight, something to com-
mand forth a power greater than
all the power of any forgotten
potentate, any king, any soul
who ever walked the earth in
that predawn time we call B.C.
(Before Computers). Yes, I won-
der. What lies behind the simple
grinning mask of that magic box
that transforms that esoteric
language of ones and zeroes into
symbols that a common man, such
as myself, may understand?

And I wonder, what magical
processes are going on inside
that unfathomable mind that
hides, somewhere, just beneath
the face that misrepresents it-
self, so innoculously, as a key-
board? What is it thinking? What
is it plotting? What will be
it's next trick? To flick off,
in the middle of a large pro-
gram? To suddenly and myster-
iously dump a full file? Or mer-
ely to refuse to load, run or
save?

Yes, my friend, it claims to
be totally logical, infallible,
immune to those great human
failings of error and inconsis-
tancy. Why then does it refuse
to load, run or save, a program

that was created and typed in
perfectly, by a skilled and
flawless operator? Could it be
trying to tell me something? Do
I really want to know? Or would
knowing dupe me into making the
very error that it has tried,
(unsuccessfully), to convince me
I've already made? Would it then
not stand alone on it's lonely
throne of perfection?

Somewhere, deep in the hid-
den recesses of it's devious
mind, lies the answer. An answer
so arcane, so mysterious, that
to know it might bring instant
and devasting retribution from
the great God "HIGH-TECH".

And so, my friend, to pro-
tect myself, to protect all of
mankind from an unknowable and
untenable fate, I am forced to
commit the grossest of sacri-
lage. I must remove the source
of power to this awesome crea-
ture.

There! Alas, 'tis done! Now
we are safe. We will never know
the answer, but we are safe.
You are safe, I have saved you,
and you will never know.

        Darrell R Smith, Sr.
        (Copyright 1985)

(Ed. Note: This essay may not
be reproduced, in whole or in
part, without the express,
written permission of the
author.)

DON'T
PULL THAT
PLUG!
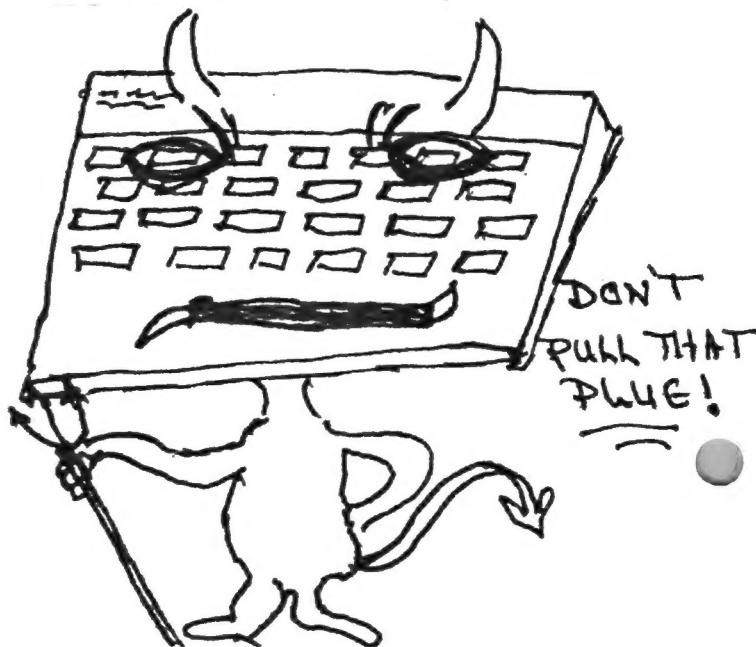
SCROLLING BULLETIN BOARDS

by DICK WAGNER

Moving message type programs are interesting to people, because of the question "How do you do that?" Of course, current TV advertising has us expecting fantasctic graphics, but we can program our TS 1000/1500 computers to do interesting message writing.

Horizontal and vertical scrolling small characters is just about our limit. Some variations such as background, framing, flashing, etc all add interest.

I have several programs based on material from some issues of Syncrosette magazine (now out of business) that should delight the experimenter. These will be published at times in THE PLOTTER. Keep them in your program file for reference as you won't find them in books.

The first program will produce large letter words in an upward scroll. Marquee type message presentation (horizontal scroll) will come later. I even have a program that splits the 32 character message in the middle and scrolls right and left at the same time! One program for long messages will encompass some machine language. A loader program plus the MC input, and a means for error correcting will be included. This is not MC programming so it is really like inputting BASIC that you copy.

The BIG SCROLL program following has a limit of 8 characters per word but will accept many words. It is slow as it shapes each character. The message is continuously repeated but it reforms the letters each time.
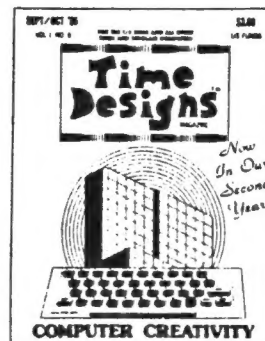
```
  5 REM Scroll message with big
letters
 10 LET S=1
 20 LET G=4
 30 PRINT AT 10,0;"TYPE IN A ME
SSAGE."
 40 INPUT B$
 50 LET B$=B$+"  "
 60 CLS
```

```
 100 GO SUB 1000
 110 FOR I=1 TO G
 120 REM change this line to SCR
OLL
 130 NEXT I
 200 FOR K=1 TO LEN A$
 210 LET C=CODE A$(K)
 220 IF C<128 THEN GO TO 250
 230 LET M$=CHR$ (C-128)
 240 LET C=0
 250 FOR L=0 TO 7
 260 LET P=PEEK (7680+C*8+L)
 270 LET V=128
 280 FOR J=0 TO 7
 290 IF P<V THEN GO TO 320
 300 PLOT 8*(K-1)+J,10-L
 305 GO SUB 2000
 310 LET P=P-V
 320 LET V=V/2
 330 NEXT J
 340 NEXT L
 350 NEXT K
 360 GO TO 100
1000 FOR N=S TO LEN B$
1010 IF B$(N)=" " THEN GO TO 105
0
1020 NEXT N
1050 LET A$=B$(S TO N-1)
1060 LET S=N+1
1070 RETURN
2000 IF N<LEN B$-1 THEN LET G=4
2010 IF N>=LEN B$-1 THEN LET S=1
2020 IF N>=LEN B$-1 THEN LET G=2
1
2030 RETURN
9998 SAVE "BIG SCROLL"
9999 RUN
```

CLASSIFIED ADS

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

WANTED

WOULD LIKE TO BUY:
INTERSTATE ENGINEERING 64K RAM
USED MODEM FOR TS1000, ANY TYPE
CALL WEEKDAYS:10AM/2PM PDT
(503) 668-7414

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